

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: Feb. 6, 2008
FROM: Faculty Senate Office, University of Massachusetts Amherst
SUBJECT: Feb. 14 Faculty Senate meeting
CONTACT: Ernest May 413-545-3611

BURGEONING UMASS CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS INSPIRE STUDY *Faculty Senate to consider whether to alter policies for future offerings*

The University's Faculty Senate will discuss whether to establish an ad hoc committee to consider the purpose and the desirability of both existing and proposed undergraduate and graduate certificate programs at its Feb. 14 meeting. Such a committee would be responsible for deciding whether to encourage the growth of such programs by recommending changes in the University's current policies and procedures.

The senate has "certificate" proposals under consideration in several of its councils "which do not conform to the University's current understanding of, and regulations regarding 'certificates,'" according to a special report of the senate's Rules Committee to be offered at the meeting. The special report cites "diverging perspectives" in the approach to undergraduate and graduate certificates, growing overlap with existing degree programs, and the increasingly elaborate nature of some offerings as issues to be resolved.

The senate also will consider its annual overview of athletics at UMass, including the athletic budget, and recognize several fall teams' exemplary performance—including football, men's soccer, and women's field hockey. Carol Barr, associate dean for Undergraduate Programs for the Isenberg School of Management, and Rodney Warnick, head of the department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, co-chairs of the senate's Athletics Council, as well as Director of Athletics John McCutcheon, will lead the discussion.

In other business, the Senate will vote on whether to approve nominations to its councils and committees, and the University's principal administrative officers will be available to answer questions.

The meeting will take place at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

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